GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Testimony in support of SB 942, AAC THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

Senators Slossberg and Meyer, Representatives Morin and Lesser, and members of the committee, I am Judith Beaudreau, Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, and member of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut, Past President and Legislative Committee of ROVAC. I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 942, AAC THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

I want to thank you for raising this bill. I believe that this is brought forward by SOTS.

Most of these ideas the Registrars of Voters will agree with but we would like to address some concerns and would like very much to work with the committee and SOTS to bring about a couple of changes that might make work for a smoother implementation.

Line 14 changing the 4 to 2 year span of the Moderator Training – this is wonderful. As a trainer of Moderators I truly agree that even though a moderator is certified, if they have not used their skills than they certainly need a refresher. I do want to say that this is not going to solve the problems in the polling places. Moderators are the boss. It is the poll workers that need training also. We have manuals created by the certification commission but they are not always used to train the poll workers. And in this area training is greatly needed. I believe that if Registrars could train poll workers that they hire it would help. But sometimes Registrars of voters are given names of poll workers that they are supposed to use. These individuals are not always the best of the crop. Not everyone can be a poll worker!

Line 22 (new) would like to have the municipal clerk removed from the emergency plan. They really have nothing to do with the Elections other than the absentee issuing. It most definitely is the responsibility of the REGISTRARS OF VOTERS. And jointly they should do their plan and be responsible for such.

Sub Language

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The registrars of voters [and
23 municipal clerk] of each municipality shall jointly create an emergency
24 contingency plan for elections, primaries and referenda to be held
25 within such municipality. Such plan shall include, but not be limited
26 to, (1) solutions for ballot shortages, and (2) strategies to implement in
27 the event of (A) a shortage or absence of poll workers, (B) a loss of
28 power, (C) a fire or the sounding of an alarm within a polling place,
29 (D) voting machine malfunctions, (E) weather or other natural
30 disasters, (F) the need to remove a poll worker or moderator and to

31 replace such worker or moderator, and (G) disorder in and around the
32 polling place.

Line 33 (b) (new) I am requesting that the Registrars of voters not have to submit to the legislative body of such municipality. Some of these towns have a town meeting. A lot of councils are so political that it makes it hard to get things approved. After all it is the Registrars of Voters plan and should totally be the point persons for creating and filing.

Sub Language

33 (b) Such plan shall be submitted [to the legislative body of such
34 municipality for approval] on or before October 1, 2012. [Upon
35 approval,] such plan shall remain on file with the municipal clerk until
36 such plan is amended jointly by the registrars of voters. [and municipal
37 clerk and approved by the legislative body of the municipality.] Any
38 municipality that fails to create and adopt an emergency contingency
39 plan on or before October 1, 2012, shall be deemed to have adopted the
40 model plan provided for in regulations adopted pursuant to this
41 section.

Line 53 Sec 3 (new) we totally agree with and had also added that to our bill drafting.

Line 66 (b) giving the names of the Moderators is not able to be done on the 31st day before an election. As a trainer of Moderators I am still certifying moderators up until the 20th day before election.

Lines 71 – 75 © We would like to know where this occurs? Is this prior to Election day when the SOTS gets the list? Or is this on Election Day in the polling place?

If this is in the polling place than ROVAC can not support this. Registrars of Voters hire – train – employ and the municipality pays the moderator. They are actual employees of the municipality and we do not feel that SOTS has jurisdiction over town or municipal employees. If the SOTS wanted to report any discrepancies to the Registrars of voters than having the remove the moderator on Election Day this would be a better workable way of handling the situation.

Lines 71 – 75 would like to remove the word disqualify and replace with decertify.

71 (c) The Secretary of the State shall have the authority to [disqualify] DECERTIFY
72 any moderator appointed by the registrars of voters if, in the opinion
73 of the Secretary, such moderator has committed material misconduct,
74 material neglect of duty or material incompetence in the discharge of
75 his or her duties as a moderator.

Lines 76 to 87 This needs to be fixed so that Registrars are reporting their own ballots in the polling place and the Municipal clerk is reporting on their absentee ballots or better yet turn over the ordering of all ballots to the REGISTRARS OF VOTERS IN CONSULATION WITH THE MUNICIPAL CLERK AND THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS IS TO REPORT TO SOTS.

There is always a lot of finger pointing and It makes better business when one office is responsible rather than two.

Lines 88 – 92 again leave it to the REGISTRARS OF VOTERS solely and attach a fine rather than having them order one per person.

Lines 93 change it to the REGISTRARS OF VOTERS solely

Lines 100 change municipal clerk to REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

I hope what I have testified today will be considered. Jointly I am sure that with these changes that together we all will have a good law that not only CYA's the Voters but those who also do the planning and that with a fine attached it is enforceable.